

MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICE AND METHOD THEREFOR

[0001] This invention relates to improved presentation, navigation, selection and/or operation options for portable communication devices, particularly, user interface options involved on the display screens thereof.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Personal portable communication apparatuses in the form of mobile or cellular telephones have become extremely popular and are in widespread use throughout the world. Moreover, mobile telephones have evolved from just portable analogues of traditional fixed-line telephones, no longer providing only voice communication, rather now having been developed into multi-faceted communication and alternative function devices providing a large range of communication options including wide area network (e.g., internet) access as well as other functionalities such as music playing (e.g., MP3 format), inter alia.

[0003] Currently, it is very common for portable communication devices such as mobile phones or terminals to have, preloaded on/in a memory of the phone, content relating to one or more optional communication or other data-handling alternatives that can be operated on the mobile phone through the phone's User Interface (UI) usually involving a display and keys. Such pre-stored functionalities may be accessed via navigation through the phone's various menu options for selection of the particular electronic and/or software application to be operated. Certain keys of the mobile phone's keypad may be assigned control functionality for accessing and/or controlling certain predetermined features of the application in relation to other features of the application.

SUMMARY

[0004] According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a method of or system for operation of a mobile communication device; the method including: providing an operable display area on a mobile communication device; displaying an array of one or more selectable items in said operable display area; providing for the selection of one item of said one or more selectable items in said display area; highlighting the selected one item of the said one or more selectable items; displaying an array of features for said selected one item.

[0005] In such a method or system, there is thus provided improved presentation, navigation, selection and/or operation options for the mobile communication device.

[0006] According to another aspect, methods and/or systems hereof include an operator or user process for using a mobile communication device; including operation steps of: initiating application control software on the mobile communication device, the application control software including rules for operation affecting the user interface of and/or the operation of a software application on the mobile communication device; whereby the rules for operation include the presentation of an operable display area on a mobile communication device; the display of an array of one or more selectable items in said operable display area; provision for the selection of one item of said one or more selectable items in said display area; highlighting the

selected one item of the said one or more selectable items; and, display of an array of one or more functional operations for said selected one item; and, further operational steps of selecting one of the one or more selectable items to thereby also display the array of one or more functional operations therefor; operating the selected item by selecting and activating one the one or more functional operations.

[0007] In this way, the operator's selection and/or operation of the mobile communication unit are improved.

[0008] According to a still further aspect, mobile communication devices hereof include a housing with a user interface including a display and a keypad disposed on the housing; control software disposed within the housing of the mobile communication device, the control software including rules for operation of the mobile communication device; whereby the rules for operation include the presentation of an operable display area on a mobile communication device; the display of an array of one or more selectable items in said operable display area; provision for the selection of one item of said one or more selectable items in said display area; highlighting a selected one item of the said one or more selectable items; and, display of an array of one or more functional operations for said selected one item; whereby the mobile communication is operable according to the rules of operation by selecting one of the one or more selectable items to thereby also display the array of one or more functional operations therefor; and operating the selected item by selecting and activating one the one or more functional operations.

[0009] Such mobile communication devices thus provide one or more of improved presentation, navigation, selection and/or operation options for the mobile communication device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] For a better understanding of the present invention and to understand how the same may be brought into effect reference will now be made, by way of example only, to the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0011] **FIG. 1A** provides an isometric illustration of a first embodiment of a hand portable phone or personal communication terminal according to the invention;

[0012] **FIG. 1B** schematically shows parts of a hand portable phone for operability including internal functionalities as well as communication with a network;

[0013] **FIG. 2**, which includes the sub-part **FIGS. 2A, 2B and 2C**, schematically shows display functionality of an embodiment of the invention;

[0014] **FIG. 3**, which includes the sub-part **FIGS. 3A and 3B**, schematically shows display functionality of another embodiment of the invention;

[0015] **FIG. 4**, which includes the sub-part **FIGS. 4A and 4B**, schematically shows display functionality of yet another alternative embodiment of the invention;

[0016] **FIG. 5**, which includes the sub-part **FIGS. 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D**, schematically shows display functionality of a